

# Iran will Observe Red Lines in talks over Syria: Velayati

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says Iran will actively take part in a new round of talks over the Syrian crisis while observing all the Islamic Republic's redlines.

Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on international affairs, told IRIB on Saturday that Iran's participation in the meeting on the Syrian conflict, which is scheduled to be held in the Austrian capital of Vienna on November 12, is by no means tantamount to a retreat by the Islamic Republic



from its stance on the Arab country. He said Iran supports the

Syrian people in their resistance against extremist and terrorist groups,

whom he described as the "sworn enemies" of the Syrians.

The Syrian people are suffering and losing their lives due to acts of terror-

ism supported by "the West, particularly the Americans, Zionists and reactionary [countries] in the region," Velayati pointed out. The Leader's adviser emphasized that Iran would spare no effort to help the Syrian people not only in the defense sector but also in the political area. "Undoubtedly, no one is entitled to interfere in Syria's domestic affairs," Velayati said, stressing that it is the Syrian people who should determine their own fate through intra-Syrian dialog. (PressTV)

## IS Frees 37 Kidnapped Syrian Christians: NGO

BEIRUT - The Islamic State group released 37 Syrian Christians Saturday, most of them women, who were among more than 200 people kidnapped in February, an NGO said. The group of Assyrian Christians consisted of 27 women and 10 men, most of them elderly, the Assyrian Monitor for Human Rights. They arrived on Saturday morning in the town of Tal Tamr in the Khabur region of Hasakeh province in north-eastern Syria, the group said. The releases were confirmed by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor, which said most of those freed

were from other towns in Khabur. The former hostages were among a group of 220 Assyrians captured by IS when they overran parts of the region in February. Since then, a trickle of prisoners has been released, with between 140 and 150 believed to be still held by IS. The Assyrian Monitor said the releases were the result of negotiations carried out by the church, but other reports suggest IS has been paid to free the hostages. Assyrians numbered about 30,000 among Syria's 1.2 million Christians before ... (More on P4)... (12)

## Foreign Countries did not Coordinate with Egypt on Security: FM

CAIRO - Foreign countries did not heed Egypt's calls for greater coordination to fight terrorism and have not shared intelligence with Cairo about the crash of a Russian passenger plane last week, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Saturday. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the crash, but several countries have already suspended flights to the Sinai resort of Sharm al-Sheikh, citing the possibility that the flight which originated there was brought down by a bomb. "The information we have heard



about has not been shared with Egyptian security agencies in

detail," Shoukry told a news conference. "We were expecting that the

technical information would be provided to us." (Reuters)

## Nieghbor News

### Pakistan's Location Key within Asia: Aziz

LUXEMBOURG - Adviser to the Pakistani Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz has said that Pakistan provides a vital link between South Asia and Central and West Asia, as well as to Europe.

Aziz spoke of Pakistan's significance as he led the Pakistan delegation at the 12th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) that took place in Luxembourg on November 5-6. In his address, Aziz highlighted several projects undertaken by Pakistan

in cooperation with regional states. He referred to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, the CASA-1000 and the Torkham-Jalalabad road project.

Aziz urged ASEM members to strengthen connections between Asia and Europe in the fields of education, science and technology, trade, business, security, culture and infrastructure sectors as well as people-to-people contacts. (Agencies)

### European Parliament Head Arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN - The European Parliament's President Martin Schulz has arrived in the Iranian capital city of Tehran for meetings with senior Iranian officials aimed at reinforcing ties between the European Union (EU) and the Islamic Republic.

Schulz is expected to hold talks with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarf and Parliament (Majlis) Speaker Ali Larijani on Saturday during his one-day visit to Tehran. He is also slated to meet with Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Mohammad Javad Larijani and Head of Iran's Parliament Re-

search Center Kazem Jalali.

'Chance to enhance ties' During a joint press conference with Parliament Speaker Larijani in Tehran, Schulz said the EU and Iran are at a point where they are determining the level of their ties.

He said Iran and the EU, having seen the distance between them grow in the past, now have an opportunity to grow closer to one another. He also thanked Iran for its participation in the recent talks in the Austrian capital city of Vienna on the Syrian crisis, and said he hoped Iran would partake in the next round of the talks, too. (PressTV)

## U.S. General Sees Air Strikes Against Islamic State Picking up

DUBAI - U.S. and coalition forces are likely to increase air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria in coming weeks after a lull in September and October, the head of U.S. Air Forces Central Command said Saturday. Lieutenant General Charles Brown told reporters at the Dubai International Air Chiefs Conference that the reduction in air strikes was due to weather and to a slowdown in activity on the ground and not due to the start of Russian air strikes

in the region. He said both government forces and insurgents were increasing their ground movements, which could create more opportunities for the United States and its allies to carry out more air strikes against Islamic State targets. "If they're not out and about, it's harder to strike, particularly for an adversary that may wrap themselves in the civilian population," he said. Brown also rejected criticism that the United States was not using air strikes as



much or effectively as possible, saying coalition forces were striving to avoid civilian casualties that could help recruitment for Islamic State. He also noted that the sheer num-

ber of air strikes was less of an indicator than the targets hit and the number of weapons used. The United States and its allies targeted Islamic State in ... (More on P4)... (13)

## Children Massacred in South Sudan Battles: UN

JUBA - Dozens of children have been killed in fighting in South Sudan, where battles rage despite political deals to end almost two years of civil war, the United Nations has said. The UN said that fighting in the northern battleground state of Unity has "intensified with grave consequences for civilians" in recent weeks, adding that 40,000 people are also starving to death. The report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released late

Friday detailed killings in just one area of Unity state during a two-week period. It said that in the Leer district of southern Unity, which has swapped hands multiple times between government and rebel forces, at least 80 civilians were killed between October 4 to 22. Almost three-quarters of those killed were children - at least 57 killed in Leer - while there were more than 50 cases of rape being used as "a weapon of war", the report said. Both sides are ... (More on P4)... (14)

## Tajikistan must Upgrade Workforce Skills: Experts

BISHKEK - Tajikistan is hugely dependent on the funds sent home by its expat workforce, but as the Russian economy sheds low-skilled labor, experts are calling for better training so that those travelling abroad have more to offer, according to the War&Peace Reporting Institute's Global Voices. Almost all of the one million-plus nationals of Tajikistan working abroad go to Russia, and three-quarters of them are in the building trade. Russia's construction industry has been hard hit by declining investment, and foreign

manual workers are the first to be sacked.

Education experts say Tajikistan needs better vocational training, and a shift in focus away from humanities towards technical subjects at university level. Jumallyasov is a rare success story. He spent more than ten years in unskilled jobs in Russia, but he has a technology-based university degree from Tajikistan, and once he had a chance to demonstrate his skills, he was promoted to become overall foreman position at a major construction firm in Moscow. (AKIpress)

## Norway Tries to Dissuade Asylum-Seekers

BERLIN - The latest news as tens of thousands of people fleeing war or seeking a better life make their way across Europe. Oil-rich Norway has launched a campaign to tell would-be refugees that the government is planning tighter immigration rules and they could be sent home if their asylum application is turned down. Justice Ministry spokesman Gunnar A. Johansen says Saturday that the English-language Facebook page "chiefly targets people whose applications are manifestly unfounded." The page says that people who won't leave Norway voluntarily "will be returned by force." Justice Minister Anders Anundsen says the current center-right government plans to reduce benefits for refugees up to 20 percent and introduce tighter immigration rules to stem the flow of asylum seekers to Norway. Officials estimate that Norway, a nation of 5 million, will see up to 25,000 refugees, mainly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, this year. A senior Bavarian conservative is backing an idea that Germany's interior minister raised, then shelved, to give many Syrians a status short of full asylum. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said Friday that perhaps many Syrians should get "subsidiary protection," which comes with only a one-year renewable residence permit and wouldn't allow them to bring relatives to Germany for two years. He apparently hadn't consulted others in Chancellor Angela Merkel's governing coalition and said hours later things would remain unchanged for now. (AP)

## U.S. President Plans Laos Visit in 2016

VIENTIANE - U.S. President Barack Obama is set to make the first visit by a current U.S. head of state to Laos in 2016 as the landlocked nation of a population of some 7 million readies itself for a year-long chairmanship of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Obama's planned visit was reportedly outlined by U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes and confirmed to Xinhua by the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane. The planned visit comes as the 10-member group institutes the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), a set of agreements designed to increase cross-border flows of investment, trade and skilled workers among member nations. The visit is likely to come at a leaders summit in November, nearing the end of Obama's second four-year term in the White House and in close proximity to elections held to choose his successor in the role. The historic planned visit comes as two countries continue efforts to repair a relationship complicated by history of U.S. interventions in the form of bombing raids in the Indochina (Vietnam) War which saw more than 2 million tonnes of weapons including anti-personnel cluster munitions dropped on the country for nearly a decade starting in 1964. Many of these munitions remain a threat to life and livelihoods in the form of unexploded ordnance, lying concealed... (More on P4)... (17)

## Russia Begins to Evacuate Tourists from Egypt

MOSCOW - About 10 special flights have departed for Egypt to bring home about 80,000 Russian tourists currently in Egypt, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich said Saturday. "According to the latest data, there are some 80,000 people. The number is reducing, because there are scheduled flights from all the three cities: Cairo, Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh, to Russia," Dvorkovich was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency. The Egyptian military is now providing addi-



tional security measures for the evacuation at the country's airports, Dvorkovich added. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday ordered all of his country's scheduled flights to Egypt be suspended amid rising speculation that terrorist attacks were

possibly behind the Russian plane crash on the Sinai Peninsula on Oct. 31, which killed all 224 people on board. The Kremlin stressed that the suspension of flights did not mean Russia believes a terrorist attack was the cause of ... (More on P4)... (15)

## 19 Killed in Coalition Strikes, Clashes in South Yemen

ADEN - At least 19 people have been killed in Saudi-led coalition air strikes and clashes between pro-government forces and rebels in Yemen's south, military sources said on Saturday. The air strikes late on Friday targeted two rebel vehicles on a road linking the central province of Ibb to Daleh further south, they said. Forces loyal to Gulf-backed President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi recaptured Daleh and four other southern provinces in July. Loyalist

forces also clashed with Iran-backed Huthi rebels and their allies on the outskirts of Daleh's second-largest city Damt on Friday, the sources said. Eight pro-government fighters and 11 rebels were killed in the clashes and air strikes, they added. In Saudi Arabia, the civil defence announced late on Friday the death of a Saudi woman and her three-month-old baby in the border city of Najran when a missile fired from ... (More on P4)... (16)

## UN Hails Chinese Peacekeepers' "Monumental" Efforts in Liberia

MONROVIA - Senior officials of United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have lauded China's peacekeeping efforts in boosting Liberia's economic growth and long-term stability, describing their performance as "professional and monumental." Salihu Z Uba, Force Commander of UNMIL, told Xinhua in an interview that Chinese transportation, engineering and medical units have done extremely well and are fully professional in the country where 85 percent of the population live below the international poverty line. "China has contributed a lot in peacekeeping as a whole. China sent peacekeepers to Liberia in the very beginning of the post-war reconstruction of Liberia," said Ingrid Dagstad, deputy police commissioner of UN

police. Liberia had witnessed political instability since 1980 when a military coup overthrew the True-Whing Party leadership, which led to the deaths of between 250,000 and 520,000 people and devastated the country's economy. A peace agreement in 2003 led to democratic election in 2005. China has since 2003 sent peacekeepers to Liberia as part of efforts to back UN peacekeeping missions, currently, more than 500 Chinese peacekeepers are carrying out various UN missions in the country. Chinese peacekeepers' outstanding performance has significantly contributed to the nation and regional development, adding such performance is standard and highly appreciated by UN peacekeepers in Liberia and UN as a whole. (Xinhua)